

**CH-521**  
**Pisgah Gas Station**  
**Pisgah vic.**  
**Private**

**circa 1920**

The Pisgah Gas Station is one of a dwindling number of rural service stations erected in the first several decades of the 20th century throughout Charles County. The building appropriates a typical early 20th century commercial form with its parapet front wall and simple rectangular gable-roof form.

The Pisgah Gas Station is significant as one of a dwindling number of rural service stations erected across Charles County at the dawn of the automobile era. Its typical early-20th century commercial form and strategic location are common features among these common commercial structures. The gas station is located at the crossroads of the village of Pisgah, a mid-19th century postal stop located on the main road between Port Tobacco and Marbury.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-521

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Pisgah Gas Station & Garage

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number SW cr Mason Springs & Bicknell Rds. publication \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Pisgah vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD

county Charles code 017 zip code 20640

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_

No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-521

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCIAL Sub: Gas station

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century Commercial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation solid: concrete block (rock-faced)

roof gable: corrugated metal w/ frame parapet

walls wood frame: German siding

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-521

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-521

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance circa 1920  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1920  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

CH-521

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 72.18 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property is designated as Parcel 179 on Map 30, Grid 17 on the Charles County Property Map.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The Pisgah Gas Station has been associated with Parcel 179, Map 30 since its construction circa 1920.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian  
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date May 17, 1999  
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689  
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Mary E.B. Wood  
street & number 4990 Abell Lane telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Indian Head state MD zip code 20640

=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-521

Section 7 Page 1

Pisgah Gas Station  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

The Pisgah Gas Station is one of a dwindling number of rural service stations erected in the first several decades of the 20th century throughout Charles County. The building appropriates a typical early 20th century commercial form with its parapet front wall and simple rectangular gable-roof form.

Located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Mason Springs Road and Bicknell Road, the building consists of a 1-story, gable-roofed frame structure. Recognizable due to its front parapet wall and double-leaf cross-braced door, the building retains most of its original materials.

The frame, 1-story structure stands atop a continuous rock-faced concrete block foundation and its walls are clad in wood German siding. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and terminates in open eaves that expose the undecorated rafter tails.

The facade is dominated by the double-leaf auto bay door. Immediately west of the auto bay is a single-pane modern commercial-style wood door accompanied by an original window that once held 2/2 sash. The parapet contains the signs of its most recent occupant, "Amoco." The remaining walls of the structure are pierced by 2/2 wood sash windows.

A 1-story, 2-bay frame shed addition extends off the west wall of the original building. The addition has a asphalt-shingled roof and aluminum sided walls. A panel-and-light entrance door and an enclosed plate glass window dominate its facade.

There are no associated outbuildings.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-521

Section 8 Page 1

Pisgah Gas Station  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

The Pisgah Gas Station is significant as one of a dwindling number of rural service stations erected across Charles County at the dawn of the automobile era. Its typical early-20th century commercial form and strategic location are common features among these common commercial structures. The gas station is located very near the crossroads of the village of Pisgah, a mid-19th century postal stop located on the main road between Port Tobacco and Marbury.

One visitor to the county wrote in 1929 that "the whole of Charles county is filled with modern automobile stations prepared to render expert service." Indeed, the same writer commented on the importance of automobiles in the county, stating that "The automobile industry...has become an important factor in the commercial and industrial life of the county and is reflected in the prosperity of the people." While this view may be a slight idealization of the circumstances, it is true that numerous "corner" service stations were erected at crossroads and along major thoroughfares throughout the county during the first three decades of the 20th century. Pisgah Gas Station is a generally well-preserved example of these small commercial facilities.

The station occupies a parcel of land acquired by the P.H. Gladfelter Company of Pennsylvania in 1918. The Gladfelter Company specialized in timbering and likely purchased the then 650-acre tract for its timber harvest.

By 1923, the Gladfelter Company had sold off 130 acres of the tract to W. Denny & Francis G. Miller of Charles County for \$1300. In 1927, the property went up at auction and was bought by the Eastern Shore Trust Company for \$1400. The trust company quickly turned the property over to Maggie May Bowie of the locally prominent Bowie family of Pisgah. After Maggie and her husband, Maximilian's deaths, a court case ensued to determine the fate of the property. The court decreed on October 7, 1939 that the land be sold. J. Russell Bowie purchased the property the next year.

The property has remained in the Bowie family ever since. The current owner, Mary E. B. (Bowie) Wood, acquired the property in 1960.

---

<sup>1</sup> Emily Emerson Lantz, *The Spirit of Maryland*, Baltimore, MD: Emily Emerson Lantz, 1929.



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-521

Pisgah Gas Station  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-  
1930

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

COMMERCE

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** COMMERCIAL/Gas station

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-521

Pisgah Gas Station  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

**Chain of Title:**

June 6, 1918: Fannie Sharretts, widow of Baltimore City to P.H. Gladfelter Company of Pennsylvania  
\$8,820  
650 acres  
survey: October 3, 1916 by Peter W. Kendrick  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 33 Folio 263

January 1, 1923: P.H. Gladfelter Company to W. Denny & Francis G. Miller  
\$1300  
Survey September 15, 1922 by R.E. Neave  
130 acres  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 40 Folio 135

April 25, 1927: Robert L. Cooksey, Sheriff to Eastern Shore Trust Company  
Sheriff's sale: March 26, 1927  
\$1400  
130 acres (newspaper ad: *Times-Crescent*, March 25, 1927)  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 47 Folio 52

April 28, 1927: The Eastern Shore Trust Company to Maggie May Bowie  
\$1500  
130 acres near Pisgah  
"Double Trouble," "Three Sisters,"  
"Dernier's Resort"  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 47 Folio 54

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-521

Pisgah Gas Station  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

February 1, 1940: Edward J. Edelen, Trustee to J.  
Russell Bowie  
Decree of Circuit court in Equity  
Case no.2216, John Bowie, et al.  
infants vs. John & Geraldine Bowie  
(parents: Maggie May & Maximilian  
Bowie)  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 71 Folio 546

Date unknown: J. Russell Bowie died intestate  
Heirs: widow, Mary E. Bowie & son,  
Russell M. Bowie

August 30, 1952: Mary E. Bowie, et al. to Gertrude M.  
Hubbard  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber PCM 103 Folio 204

August 30, 1952: Gertrude M. Hubbard, widow to Mary  
E. & Russell M. Bowie  
99.5 acres  
part of "Double Trouble," "Three  
Sisters," & "Dernier's Resort"  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber PCM 103 Folio 206

April 2, 1960: Mary E. Bowie Wood to Mathilde Owen  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 148 Folio 73

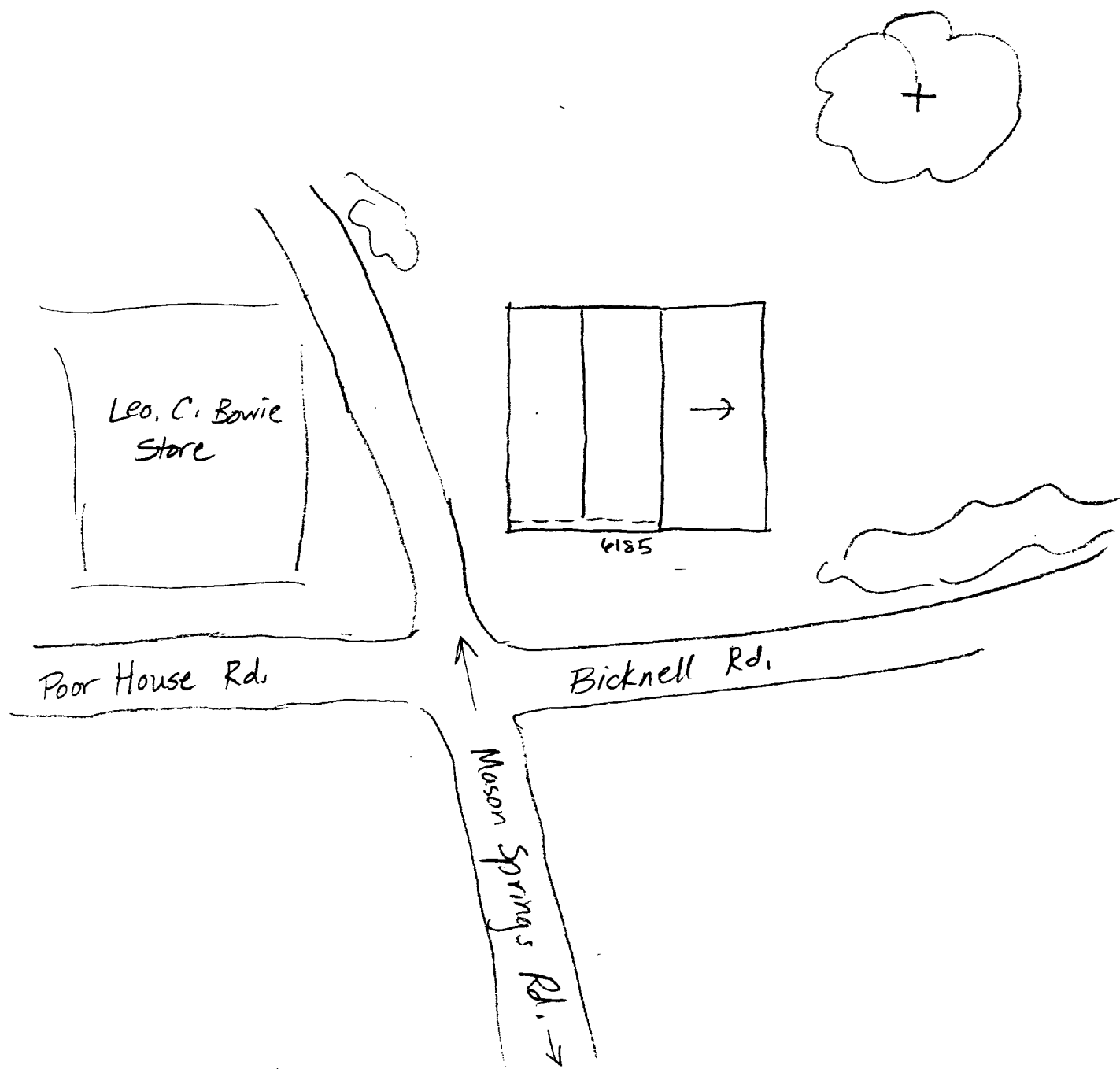
April 2, 1960: Mathilde Owen to Mary E. Bowie Wood  
76.5 acres near Pisgah  
Part of "Double Trouble," "Three  
Sisters," & "Dernier's Resort"  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 148 Folio 75

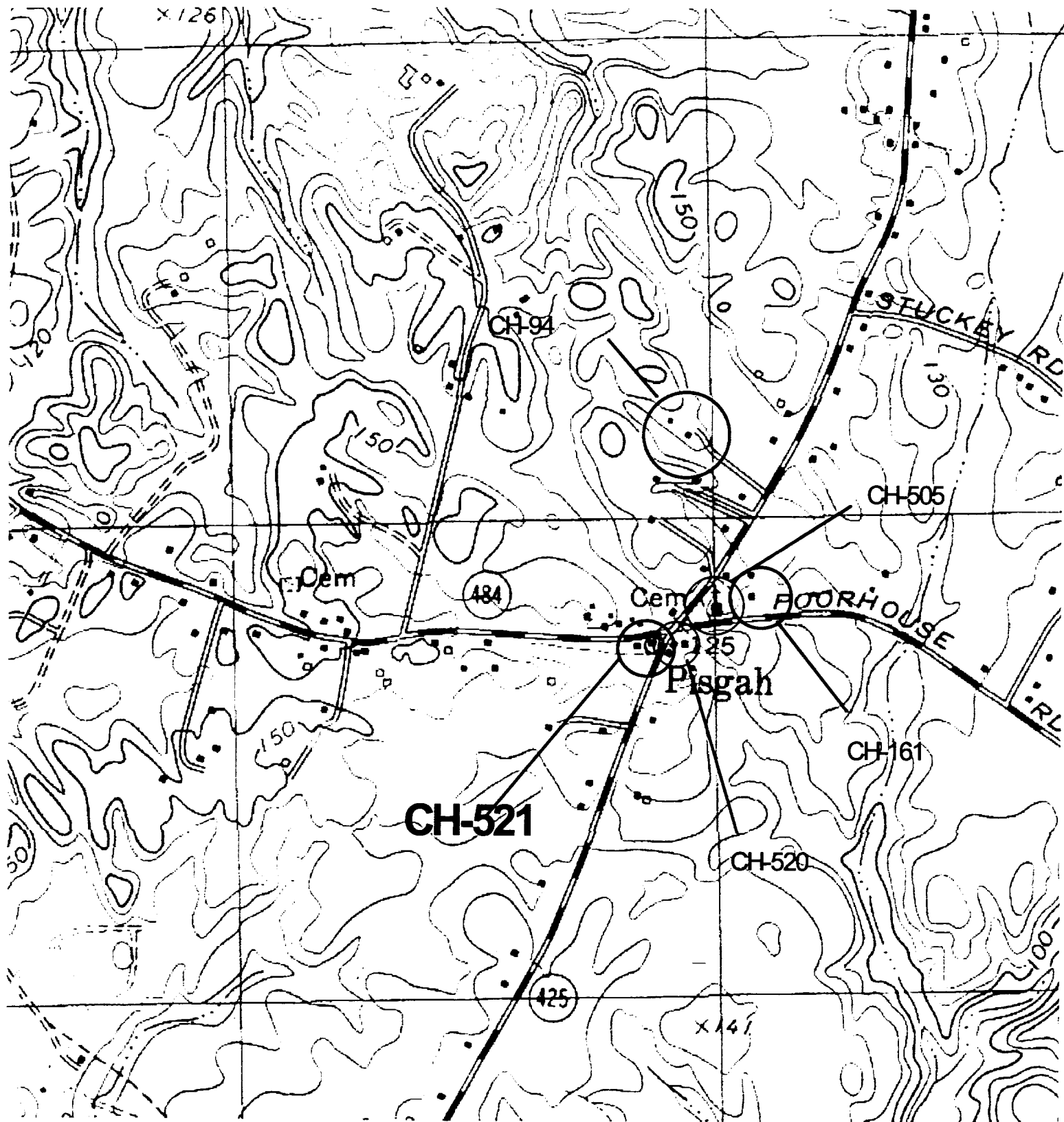
# RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

4/99

PISGAH GAS STATION  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
PISGAH, MD

CH-521





Pisgah Gas Station  
Charles County, MD

CH-521

INDIAN HEAD, MD QUAD



CH-521

PISGAH GAS STATION

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW

1 OF 1